7. New Telephone exchanges will be opened subject to registeration of requisite paid demands and technical feasibility.

(b) 1993-94

1. A 3000 lines modern electronic telephone exchange is planned for installation at Tadepalligudem in replacement of existing exchange equipments.

2. 10 Nos. of small electromechanical exchanges have been planned for replacement by modern electronic exchanges to provide improved service to customers.

3. The remaining 5 Panchayat villages will be provided with telephone facility.

4. Local and STD PCOs will be provided subject to technical feasibility, suitability and demand on franchise basis.

5. A telecom. Centre is planned to be opened at Tadepalligudem Bazar. Bureaufax facility will be introduced at Nidadavole.

6. New Telephone Exchanges will be opened subject to registration of requisite paid demands and technical feasibility.

7. Out of total 14 Taluk Headquarters in West Godavari District, 10 are already provided with STD facility. 2 Taluk Headquarters have been planned for provision of STD facility during 1993-94 and the remaining 2 during 1994-95 depending upon technical feasibility.

Fraud in making international telephone

1215. SHRI N. E. BALARAM :
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA :
SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH :
SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have constituted a high level committee to probe the nation wide racket in illegal international and national telephone calls;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how many officers and employees of the MTNL have been suspended so far after one such racket was unearthed by the surprise raid by the Minister himself;

(d) the amount of loss caused to Government on this account; and

(e) what remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) and (b) A proposal is under consideration of Government to constitute a Committee to examine malpractices resulting in loss of telephone revenue and to suggest remedial measures.

(c) One Sub-divisional Officer and Junior Telecom Officer of MTNL have been suspended and disciplinary action has been initiated.

(d) The exact amount of loss has not been estimated.

(e) Active assistance of CBI is being taken to deal with such cases. Four special cells of CBI, each under the charge of a Superintendent of Police are being set up in the four Metropolitan Cities to deal with such cases in coordination with the Departmental Officers.

Operation of Dish Antena and Cable T

1216. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH :
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report published in the Hindustan Times dated the 12th September, 1992 captioned "Dish Violate Act"